Sparta

DER EINZIGE
OCT 09, 2024

54 · 12 · 9 · Share



(I recently rewatched 300 & have started Assassins Creed Odyssey, so I'm on an ancient Greece binge right now. Oh, to be a swordsman defending the gates of Marathon...)

The Spartans, or at least some conception of them, have been one of the most enduring memories in all of history. When you really take into account how few people were ever truly Spartans & how long ago they lived, it's quite awe inspiring how their glory has hardly faded over the centuries. I'd say far more people remember Sparta than more recent & influential cultures like the HRE or the Ottomans. I'd also argue that the popular conception of Sparta is probably more accurate than the vast majority of ancient civilizations, especially Rome (granted, the exact 'ideology' and way of life for Rome shifted massively throughout it's lifetime). I know it's sort of cringy when veterans make reference to Spartans or other warriors of old, but it usually comes from a good place.

Sparta is somewhat of an enigma to the modern man. If you sent a lefty moralist to Sparta, they'd have a mental breakdown on the spot. It's usually quite a shock when people find out that Spartiates practiced a very harsh eugenic program, although it was still much kinder than the natural selection of the wild. They also find it hard to understand why the Spartans subjected themselves to a quite brutal lifestyle from birth to likely early death, and more so that they were extremely proud of this lifestyle & made no effort to 'improve' it.

I actually remember a Xtian account on twitter claiming that Sparta was the ultimate "satanist" society because of these practices, and lamenting how popular the memory of Sparta is. Lmao.

From the perspective of the Liberal modernist, Sparta is certainly the ultimate evil. Far more than even Nazi Germany, which was far less abrasive with its practices even if it took heavy inspiration from Sparta through Nietzsche. However, regardless of being the epitome of what is called evil today, the memory of Sparta lives on in a very positive light.

Honestly, this just proves that Greek notions of *Kleos* and the related immortality were fairly accurate. The Spartans aren't remembered because of great statesmanship or technological progress. They're remembered for the glory they achieved on the battlefield & in their day to day life. The reputation that Sparta enjoyed in its era has remained long after its passing, due largely to battles like Thermopylae. This reputation has easily overcome whatever grievances the moralfags may have with the greatest Hellenes.

Aside from admiring their glory, I also think several aspects of Sparta's ideology/way of life are absolutely something we should strive towards from RW or NS perspective.

Sparta had a great class/caste system. I think this sort of system is fairly natural, as it is present in virtually every human society from prehistory to collapse of Feudalism. Sparta's castes were as follows:

- Spartiate - Descents of the original inhabitants of Sparta, roughly around 1000 BCE. It's also known that very few individuals of lower caste were also granted the title of Spartiate due to prowess in the apoge or battle (similar to serfs being knighted in medieval terms.) These were the true Spartans. They were full time soldiers, and occasionally dabbled in affairs like art, poetry, philosophy, statesmanship, etc. They did virtually no menial labor, however endured fairly harsh lives by choice.
- Perioikoi - These were freemen, but had virtually no say in Sparta's politics outside of their own local cities. They actually had more rights than the Spartiates in some regards, like being able to freely travel outside of Sparta, however this shouldn't be confused as freedom as these rights were given - not earned. I enjoy Aristotle's notion of the Perioikoi, where they form almost a middle class that bears similarities to modern definitions of the bourgeoisie. These were often tradesmen, skilled craftsmen, etc.
- Helots - Slave caste. Americans have a warped notion of slavery, based on the exaggerated brutality of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, but slavery in this era was actually no different than medieval serfdom. Helots were simply the working class. Farmers, housekeepers, menial laborers, etc. Spartan Helots are somewhat noteworthy in that they were owned by the state, not individual Spartiates or Perioikoi.

Helots & Perioikoi were considered conquered peoples. They were not truly of Sparta, they were simply conquered & thus subject to the will of the Spartiates. Surprisingly, this was actually a bit nicer than the fate of peoples conquered by other states like Athens, where men were often completely annihilated while women & children were subject to significantly more brutal chattel slavery. Spartans highly valued their women (more on this later) and thus didn't seem particularly interested in taking women as slaves, instead making it so that all of Sparta's sons & daughters were free of menial labor (something about Meds being lazy here). Ultimately, Vae Victis.

I think such a caste system is the best through a Nietzchean lens. I'm sure most of my readers are aware that the slave caste of society never actually went away, even under the guise of egalitarianism. The bulk of the population is simply incapable of the sort of aristocratic thinking, the want for more. I don't think this is necessarily wrong, it's actually quite convenient that society has so many worker ants so that the higher men can focus on more 'virtuous' things. There's also the natural hierarchy when it comes to things like IQ, and the fact that the of the population doesn't actually have the intellectual capacity to comprehend things like politics, economics, philosophy, art, etc.

I should point out that the slave population of Sparta was extraordinarily high, like up to 80% of the population high. At a certain point, the amount of people who were able to gain full citizenship (Spartiate men who completed training in the apoge) was about 3% of the total population. While this seems like a ludicrous figure for slaves, it makes more sense when you consider they were more like serfs. Spartiates had essentially the same role as the German aristocracies found in Europe later. Despite this, there was only ever a single major slave revolt that Sparta had little issues crushing.

The key virtue of the Spartan caste system, and indeed all aristocratic notions, is that it serves to lift up the higher man. By leaving petty labor to those accustomed to it, the highest caste of society can focus its attention on thought, on power, on art. Those who value equality over quality may complain about his, but this sort of division of labor is what gave birth to civilization in the first place.

Above all, the Spartans were warriors. This was the ultimate & only true profession of any Spartan from the Helot conscript to the King himself. Sparta is arguably the definition of a militaristic society. Despite this, Sparta was actually rather level headed when it came to war. They did not blindly throw spears into the territory of all their neighbors or embark on meaningless suicide missions for the sake of it. This may have been the attitude of the young Spartiate, driven more by testosterone than reason, but certainly not the men in charge. Sparta was no more prone to war than any other civilization at the time, and in many cases Athens tended to be far more aggressive. This video about the Peloponnesian Wars showcases this well, Sparta was just as skilled in diplomacy as it was in combat. I bring this up because a common claim from *Der Libtard* is that a militaristic society is prone to unnecessary violence & is somehow incapable of solving issues peacefully. The most militaristic society in history did not have this issue, which sort of throws a wrench in that notion.

This militarism, which was a lifestyle chosen by the Spartiate class, was instead based upon the belief that it simply bread better men. To live is to fight, and the gods &/or nature will always favor those who are the strongest. This warrior lifestyle was seen as method to achieve virtue. A great warrior was strong, hard, healthy, of good genetic stock, ambitious, courageous, honorable, cunning, & virile. All of these are objectively good & necessary for the other jobs a Spartiate may find himself in from artist to statesman to philosopher to father. For the Spartans, it wasn't enough to be a good man. These were aristocrats who strove for greatness & glory, and nothing breeds great men or glory better than a warrior lifestyle. This wasn't an uncommon theme, the Japs had a very similar notion with their Samurai, Sparta just took it to it's extreme.

Much like the other Greek nations, the Spartans were described as beautiful. This shouldn't come as a surprise, as they were extremely physically active from birth to death. Average BMI was probably like 5. This included their women.

Which brings me to the femoids, one of the most interesting & (deliberately) misunderstood aspects of Sparta's society.

> *"He made the maidens exercise their bodies in running, wrestling, casting the discus, and hurling the javelin, in order that the fruit of their wombs might have vigorous root in vigorous bodies and come to better maturity, and that they themselves might come with vigour to the fulness of their times, and struggle successfully and easily with the pangs of child-birth. He freed them from softness and delicacy and all effeminacy by accustoming the maidens no less than the youths to wear tunics only in processions, and at certain festivals to dance and sing when the young men were present as spectators.*
>
> *There they sometimes even mocked and railed good-naturedly at any youth who had misbehaved himself; and again they would sing the praises of those who had shown themselves worthy, and so inspire the young men with great ambition and ardour. For he who was thus extolled for his valour and held in honour among the maidens, went away exalted by their praises; while the sting of their playful raillery was no less sharp than that of serious admonitions, especially as the kings and senators, together with the rest of the citizens, were all present at the spectacle.*
>
> *Nor was there anything disgraceful in this scant clothing of the maidens, for modesty attended them, and wantonness was banished; nay, rather, it produced in them habits of simplicity and an ardent desire for health and beauty of body. It gave also to woman-kind a taste of lofty sentiment, for they felt that they too had a place in the arena of bravery and ambition. Wherefore they were led to think and speak as Gorgo, the wife of Leonidas, is said to have done. When some foreign woman, as it would seem, said to her: "You Spartan women are the only ones who rule their men," she answered: "Yes, we are the only ones that give birth to men."*
>
> *— Plutarch, The Life of Lycurgus*

I've been meaning to write an article on women for a while, but it's been stuck in my drafts as I gather my thoughts & ensure consistency. In lieu of that article being posted, I will say that the Spartiates are the closest to my view of women in society. I specify Spartiate because we don't know if the lesser castes had this same culture, nor should we care what the opinions of the slaves are.

Firstly, Sparta was not some feminist utopia. This is claimed by some trying to push modern feminist ideology. Women were generally not able to vote or hold political office as they did not go through the apoge that was a prerequisite to Spartan citizenship. Sparta also did not fall into the modern feminist delusion that women & men were effectively the same. Sparta, rather, respected femininity instead of trying to hold them to the standards of men. Women had a degree of equality when it came to things like economics or education, but this doesn't mean they carried spears or were sent to negotiate with men of other nations. The most important thing to remember when you hear about Spartan women is that they were *aristocrats*, a cut above the masses. What applies to the higher echelons of humanity doesn't necessarily apply to the slave castes.

No one really cares that Spartan women could easily inherit property or own land on their own, that's boring & beyond normal nowadays. What's interesting is how they fit into the culture of Sparta, especially related to other Greek states like Athens. For starters, Spartan women were treated better from birth by being fed the same food as male children. Elsewhere, it was common to feed girls more grain & save meats for the boys. Girls were also generally relegated to their family home & rarely left. The opposite was true in Sparta, where girls were expected to be outside & exercising almost as much as the boys (minus combatives of course).

Young women also didn't marry until their late teens to early twenties, as opposed to the Athenian custom where daughters were typically married off around the age 13. The Spartans determined this practice to increase the chance of healthy offspring, it's unknown if they also knew/cared about physiological damages that come with adolescence pregnancy.

Regardless, the Spartans determined that in order to have healthy sons they needed healthy mothers. An athletic woman & an athletic man would have athletic children. This sort of thought permeated every facet of Spartan ideology.



Just so there's no confusion, this is what Spartiate women probably looked like. Fit doesn't mean those weird "muscle mommy" steroid freaks that closeted homosexuals simp over

Also notable, Spartan women were fairly immodest for their time. They wore looser & more revealing clothing than their Athenian counterparts. Nudity was also a notable part of Sparta, including nude festivals attended by men & women. Sparta did not shy away from the human body (especially an athletic one), nor were they prudish about sexuality. The reasoning was that men & women should be able to observe each other's bodies both for aesthetic appreciation & to ensure their fitness when finding a spouse. I posted a little rant on iFunny about my opinions on modern conceptions of modesty (it's stupid), and it seems that many on the Right still see it as "trad" thing instead of something that was invented by ideologies that aren't fond of natural sexuality. The reality is the natural state of humanity is nude. Clothing only serves as physical protection or artistic expression.

Women were also fairly well educated in Sparta, which isn't odd compared to later European aristocracies but was notable at the time. Apparently, the Spartiate women were pretty smart already as Plato praised their skills at philosophical discussions. Regardless, the bulk of their education seems to have been art & music, while men focused on philosophy & statesmanship.

Besides all that, the most important aspect is how the contributed to the warrior state. I'm sure most of you have heard the old phrase "Come back with your shield, or on it." This is actually, according to Plutarch, something that was traditionally said by a Spartan's wife (or other close female figure, if unmarried) as they left for battle. The earlier quote from Plutarch sums this relationship well. Women encouraged the Spartans to carry out their duties. Young women would playfully mock the less muscular or coordinated boys as a way of motivating them to be better. Wives didn't ask their husbands to come home, they asked them to win or die trying. Women propelled the men in their lives towards glory in every way possible. In this way, they were as important to the upbringing of young warriors as the men physically training them. Women were also said to be the principal figure to punish their own sons for cowardice, sometimes killing them themselves.

The last thing regarding femoids, and definitely the most controversial (I promise, more people will take issue with this than the infanticide). Spartan society was quite open about sexuality, and didn't follow monogamy in the dogmatic manner we would see after the rise of Abrahamic religions. Spartan women were somewhat polyamorous. Because of the desire for strong offspring, it was apparently fairly common for wives to be impregnated by other men if there was a reason to do so. Common reasons would be unmarried Spartans leaving for particularly dangerous conflicts, older men wanted younger men to breed their wives for a better chance at healthy offspring. This definitely went both ways, as there were periods where the women outnumbered the men by a great margin. It's unknown whether Spartans took multiple wives during this time, but they certainly had children with multiple women.

Although mostly associated with reddit faggots nowadays, polygamy of some sort wasn't uncommon back in the day. Ancient peoples rarely had any strict dogmatic rules when it cane to sexuality or marriage, and it's not until Christianity came around that the strict monogamy associated with marriage today became widespread. Ultimately, the polyamory of Sparta was mainly pragmatic in nature. The ultimate goal was to bring forth as many healthy children as possible, as Spartans had a lot of issues maintaining its population in relation to the Helots. I should also point out that there's no evidence of polyamory "for fun," or anything other than child rearing. I don't doubt it happened but it was a major part of the culture.



oh yeah, there was a state sponsored play about lesbians in Sparta. Not romantic love but sexual desire. This feeds into my belief that all women are innately bisexual.

What I'm sure is everyone's favorite part, infanticide. To start off, this wasn't nearly as widespread as you might think. Firstly, the criteria (according to Plutarch) was whether a child would be able to live a spartan lifestyle or not. They weren't throwing babies off of cliffs because one ear was a little bigger than the other. It would've only been the worst cases of genetic failures that got killed, like actual useless individuals. As tough as Spartan life would've been, 99% of the children born would be more than able to physically do it. We're talking about birth defects that are already extremely rare, in a population of a few thousand. It wasn't some giant sacrificial pit full of dead babies.

It should also be noted that Sparta was not unique in this regard. This was also practiced in Athens (possibly to lesser extent) and the sentiment was also found in Rome:

> "We put down mad dogs; we kill the wild, untamed ox; we use the knife on sick sheep to stop their infecting the flock; we destroy abnormal offspring at birth; children, too, if they are born weak or deformed, we drown. Yet this is not the work of anger, but of reason – to separate the sound from the worthless."
>
> -Seneca the Younger

The moralfagging about eugenics is a very modern phenomenon, it would be completely accepted at any other point in history before WW2.

The moral argument, from a Spartan perspective, is that killing a useless child will save him from a lifetime of suffering & shame. Take that as you will.

To conclude, Sparta is the ideal state to strive towards. We can look at any prehistoric society & find many of the same values, but Sparta is unique in how it kept true to those values to the day it was eaten by a bigger fish. Most importantly, there's no ambiguity in striving for Sparta. Whenever someone says "we can have Rome again," it always means something different because you never know if they mean the Republic, the Empire, or somehow the HRE. Sparta is a quite clear goal. Aside from any books or archeological study, you can just watch 300 & get the jist pretty well. Sparta is the herald of the Übermensch, the striving for greatness & total war on the lower beings who share our species - allegedly.

Above all, Sparta is the civilization of nature. The laws of Sparta were as in accordance with nature as could be conceivable. It played no games about rigid dogmatism or life denial. It made no attempts to justify itself.

It's Kleos speaks for itself.

Hail Sparta, Hail Victory



Subscribe to ICØNØCLAST
By Der Einzige · Launched a year ago
Newsletter to spread the word of Revolutionary National Socialism & monitor the Collapse. Hail Victory.
Type your email... Subscribe
By subscribing, I agree to Substack's Terms of Use, and acknowledge its Information Collection Notice and Privacy Policy.

54 Likes • 9 Restacks

54 · 12 · 9 · Share

Discussion about this post

Comments Restacks

Write a comment...

Hessian Oct 9
Liked by Der Einzige
Love reading abt ancient Greek states, although I was quite distraught when I first learned about Sparta's female polygamy, German brain recoils violently at the thought, idc what the reasoning may be.
LIKE (11) REPLY SHARE

Konakh Chronicles Oct 12
Liked by Der Einzige
I know you'd refute it but homosexuality is a big topic when discussing Spartans, would have liked to hear your thoughts
LIKE (1) REPLY SHARE

1 reply by Der Einzige

10 more comments...

Top Latest Discussions

Depopulation
This is another article taking aim at something that's generally associated with the left, and recontextualizing it.
SEP 26, 2024 • DER EINZIGE

Zero Tolerance
Stop pretending enemies are friends.
AUG 1, 2024 • DER EINZIGE

Winds of Change
America, & Europe, have moved massively to the Right.
MAR 2 • DER EINZIGE

See all

Discover more from ICØNØCLAST
Newsletter to spread the word of Revolutionary National Socialism & monitor the Collapse. Hail Victory.
Enter your email...
Subscribe
By subscribing, I agree to Substack's Terms of Use, and acknowledge its Information Collection Notice and Privacy Policy.
Already have an account? Sign in